

## Building Background Knowledge, cont.

### COOPERATION = SURVIVAL

When the Inundation was over, the Nile returned to normal. Farmers went to work for the next eight months growing food. It was this new soil each year that kept Egyptian farms **stable** and strong. But, to make the best use of the fertile land, the Egyptians had to **value** cooperation. They had to get along and work together. They had to build dikes to keep floodwaters out of villages. They had to build catch basins to hold water for use during dry months. They had to build canals to get water to all the fields nearby. All this took planning. It took lots of rules and decisions by thousands of officials.

### PHARAOKHS CREATE ORDER

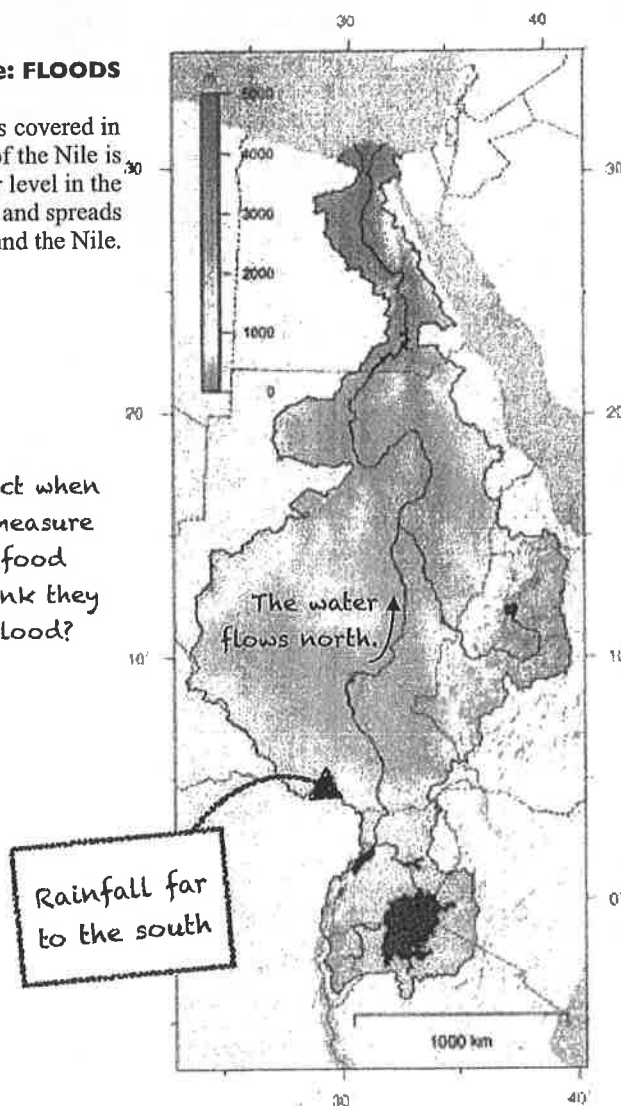
This started with the pharaoh. Egypt had a large government with a king called a pharaoh who was known as the "Lord of Two Lands" and the "High Priest of Every Temple." As the "Lord of Two Lands," the pharaoh owned the black land and the red land, made laws and rules to create **order**, collected taxes, and protected Egypt from enemies. As the "High Priest of Every Temple," ancient Egyptians believed the pharaoh was a god and that it was the pharaoh's duty to keep everything **orderly**, even nature itself. When a pharaoh died, Egyptians believed that his rule continued in the afterlife, where he made sure that **order** and **stability** were maintained among the gods. Pharaohs **ordered** the construction of pyramids because they believed that these buildings would prepare them for the afterlife. The pyramid contained all the pharaoh would need to continue to uphold **order** in the afterlife.

### Connecting to Science: FLOODS

A flood occurs when land that is normally above water is covered in water. From a scientific perspective, the flooding of the Nile is caused by rainfall far to the south that causes the water level in the river to rise. This water makes its way north into Egypt and spreads across the low-lying land around the Nile.

### TURN AND TALK

Even though ancient Egyptians could predict when the yearly floods would begin and could measure the height of the flood to know how much food they would be able to grow, why do you think they believed it was a god that controlled the flood?



## Class Discussion about the Egyptians and Their Gods

### Why would a pharaoh want to be known as a god?

According to the reading on the previous page, the Egyptians believed their pharaohs were gods who controlled everything, even nature. Think about what this meant for the Egyptians and fill in the boxes below:

I think believing the pharaoh was a god was a GOOD thing for the Egyptians because...

I think believing the pharaoh was a god was a BAD thing for the Egyptians because...



### CLASS DISCUSSION

Which claim above is stronger and why? Use this response and the table above to help you participate in the whole-class discussion.